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Parole Board

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Maureen E. Walsh
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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
DAVID MORTIMER
W-38624

TYPE OF HEARING: Review
DATE OF HEARING: June 27, 2006
DATE OF DECISION: July 20, 2006

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Daniel Dewey, Doris Dottridge, Candace Kochin, Thomas Merigan, Deborah McDonagh, Maureen Walsh.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Reserve after completion of six months in pre-release.

Special Conditions: Approve home plan before release. Waive work for two weeks. Supervise for drugs; testing required. Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing required. Report to assigned MA parole office on day of release. No contact with victim's family. Alcoholics Anonymous at least 3 times per week.

On June 27, 2006 Mr. Mortimer was before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a review hearing for the murder of Ida Sundblom. Mr. Mortimer pled guilty to this murder and has been incarcerated for 25 years. He has been before the Board on 3 separate occasions and denied due to the senseless murder of his elderly victim and his prior criminal history. Since his incarceration he has taken numerous courses and programs to address his alcohol and anger issues. His programming includes Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Mental Health, Bible courses, Computer, Growing Together phase I, II and III, and transitional planning. Many of these programs are continuations of previous involvement. He also receives excellent work evaluations. In the past, he was housed in minimum security from 1987 until 1994 and was employed at Clinton Town Hall. His administrative return to higher custody was due to Department of Correction policy. At that time he obtained a valid drivers license.

The Board notes that Mr. Mortimer's institutional behavior over the past 25 years could be fairly characterized as excellent. He has shown that he is able to comply with the rules and regulations and able to be supervised by an authority figure. Since his last parole hearing he has continued to be involved in programs, maintain sobriety and remain disciplinary report free. A steady and slow transition to the community will be in Mr. Mortimer's and the community's best interest.

Dissent: Denied.

David Mortimer is serving a second degree life sentence for the 1981 brutal beating death of 79 year old Ida Sondblom. Mr. Mortimer targeted the victim for robbery. Occasionally, he was employed by the victim to perform odd jobs on her property. He received an additional concurrent sentence for armed robbery and larceny and receiving stolen property. His motive for this crime was to pay a car loan. In 1982, he received a New Hampshire sentence for five counts of Burglary in New Hampshire. Mr. Mortimer has a lengthy criminal history including breaking and entering and kidnapping. At the current hearing, Mr. Mortimer was evasive upon questioning and appeared manipulative, repeatedly stating he didn't understand when he did not want to respond to probing questions. Mr. Mortimer does not suffer from any cognitive disabilities. Mr. Mortimer's only support in the community is a woman he met while incarcerated. Despite Mr. Mortimer's improved institutional adjustment and program involvement, it is this Board Member's opinion that he has not completely come to terms with this crime and that he poses an ongoing public safety risk.

Board Member 1:	Concur.
Board Member 2:	Concur.
Board Member 3:	Concur.
Board Member 4:	Concur.
Board Member 5:	Concur.
Board Member 6:	Denied.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.

Daniel V. Irioppe
Executive Director

7/31/06
Date